

JOHN HAMILTON SR.

John Hamilton Sr. was born in Sainsfield, County of Down, Ireland, on July 12, 1807, son of Abel and Mary Jamieson Hamilton. The only written record of his life is in a diary he kept in his own handwriting. The following is quoted directly from the diary as he wrote it:

"I was raised with my father and mother in Hillsborough, County of Down, and learned the whitesmith trade with my father."

"On the 22nd of May, 1827, I married the third daughter of John and Mary Creighton and on the 22nd of June, 1830, she brought forth a son, whose name was William. On June 13, 1832, we had another son, whose name was Samuel. August 6, 1834, we had another son, whose name was John (Jr.), which was the last child we had."

"Our son William died February 1, 1839."

"My wife and I were strictly brought up in the Church of England, which we thought was the true church till the fall of 1840. Elder Theadore Curtis was sent from Manchester to Ireland on a mission and stopped at Hillsborough, and when we heard the gospel he preached it made a great change in us, and on the 4th or 5th of November, 1840, we were baptized, and then the devil began to howl. Brother Curtis never spoke of gathering, but about two days after we were baptized I spoke to him about coming to Zion and he told me I had got the spirit of gathering."

534

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

"I carried on the smith trade from the time I was married till November, 1842, when I commenced to make ready for a start, when I sailed from Belfast to Liverpool on December 31, 1843. We had to stay in Liverpool on account of high winds, till the 16th before we sailed. After a pleasant voyage we landed in New Orleans on the 15th of March, 1843. The name of the ship was the "Swanton," of Bath, and her captain's name was Davenport. He was very kind to the passengers. On the night of the 17th of March we sailed up the Mississippi River in a steamboat called the "Goddess of Liberty." It was a very hard winter up north, and the water was very low and could not come much speed. When we got to St. Louis we had to take a lighter boat to take us to Nauvoo and to wait eleven days there till the river broke up, and we landed in Nauvoo on the 12th of April, 1843."

"When the Prophet Joseph seen us coming up the river, he, with Brothers Hyrum and Kimball, came down to the river to meet us. Brother Lorenzo Snow was in charge of the company from Liverpool, and a good man he was. I had a letter of introduction from Brother Andrew Henry to William Law, who was counselor to the Prophet, at the time, and I wrought (blacksmithed) for him 31 days and then rented the shop and tools till I built a house and shop for myself, which was a little above the Temple. When I went on my tenth day to work on the Temple, the stone cutter petitioned the committee any wages in reason to get me to stop and do their tools, so I stopped and did the smith work on the Temple."

"During this time the mob and apostates did all they could to annoy the Saints. The Laws and Fosters and two sons of Judge Nibley, who apostatized and joined the mob. The apostates published a paper called the Nauvoo Expositor, full of lies and slander. Joseph was the Mayor of the City and called the city council together and declared the paper a nuisance, so they broke open the door and destroyed the press and type. I was present when it was done. Then the howl went (was) up and they entered lawsuit against Joseph and a writ was issued for his arrest."

"Joseph called the Legion out to speak to them, and he said they wanted to butcher

him. He stood on a small frame of a house and put his hands up and called on the Great Eloheim, if he had the work done He gave him to do done, that death would be sweeter than honey in the comb, and said Amen to it, and everyone said Amen. But we did not think we were sanctioning his death till it was too late."

"Joseph just preached once on the stand after (this), which was a discourse on plurality of the Gods. A few days after he went across the river to come west, when some of the fearful Saints went and pleaded with him to come back. He said the spirit told him to go west. One said: 'Brother Joseph, you said you would die for this people.' He said: 'So I will die for them,' and he came back and gave himself up. Then Hyrum and Joseph started for Carthage when they met a posse coming for the government—when they turned back and delivered themselves up to the posse and came up Mulholland Street."

JOHN JR. AND MARY McDONALD HAMILTON FATHER



John Hamilton, Sr. was born in Saintsfeld County of Down, Ireland, July 12, 1807, a son of Abel Hamilton and Mary Jamison. Married Mary Creighton, daughter of John and Myra Creighton on May 22 1827.

SON, JOHN JR.

John Hamilton Jr. was born August 6, 1834, at Hillsborough County of Down, Ireland a son of John and Mary Creighton Hamilton. Married Mary McDonald, October 1, 1854. She was born October 4, 1838, at Craford's Burn, County of Down, Ireland, a daughter of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Mary died at Buysville (Daniel) December 3, 1899. John married Janet (Jennett) Cochren, May 15, 1901. She died February 7, 1912, at Waterloo, Mont. John died April 9, 1917, at Heber.

Life History of John Jr. and
Mary McDonald Hamilton

John Hamilton Sr. was raised in Hillsborough, County of Down and learned the blacksmith's trade with his father.

He and wife had three sons, William, Samuel and John Jr.

John Sr. and Mary Creighton had been brought up strictly in the Church of England and thought it was the true church until they heard Elder Theodore Curtis teach. They were baptized in November 1840.

John Sr., and Mary C. with their sons,

869

Samuel and John Jr. started for America December 31, 1842. They took a ship from Belfast to Liverpool. They stayed in Liverpool because of high winds until they could leave on January 16, 1843, in the charge of Lorenzo Snow on the ship Swanton of Bath with Capt. Davenport who was very kind to them. They landed at New Orleans on March 15, 1843, and from there went up the Mississippi and reached Nauvoo on April 12, 1843. He went to work as a blacksmith to sharpen tools for the stone cutters on August 15 after he had blacksmithed for the Prophet Joseph Smith for 31 days.

John Jr. was baptized in the Mississippi River by Elder Theodore Curtis in 1843. They remained in Nauvoo until 1847 when they were driven across the Mississippi River by the mob. From here John Sr. went to Missouri where he was engaged as a blacksmith until 1850. They saw all the persecution of the Prophet Joseph and the saints and when Joseph and Hyrum were taken by the posse.

The people in Missouri, where he was engaged as a blacksmith, when they learned he was planning to leave for the mountains, offered to fence a farm and build a house for him if he would remain. But he told them he had left his native land for his religion and that he was going to the valleys of the mountains in Salt Lake. The house was crowded with people for nearly a week to bid them goodbye.

They started the first of May 1850, and arrived in Salt Lake September 15, 1850. At that time George A. Smith was calling for volunteers to go south to make a settlement which was later called Parowan. Samuel volunteered to go, but went into the adobe yards in Salt Lake and made enough adobes to build a small house before leaving for Parowan. He arrived there January 16, 1851. John Sr. bought a city lot, built an adobe house and went to work at the Public Blacksmith shop. The rest of the family went to Parowan, the following fall.

July 24, 1853, the Walker War broke out and John Jr. served through the entire war. "We were ordered into Cedar from where we lived on Shirts Creek or what is now Hamilton Fort. We had to gather our crops by working all day and standing guard every other night, until the war which lasted two years, ended."

When but a little more than five years old, his wife, Mary McDonald, and brothers

and sisters came to America. They settled in Nauvoo in the spring of 1844, where they remained until the summer of 1847, when they moved to Bonaparte, Iowa.

In 1850 the McDonald family started for Utah, arriving in Salt Lake City in September of that year. The father died of cholera during the trip.

They went to Mountainville (now known as Alpine) Utah County, where they lived during the winter. In the spring of 1851 they moved to Springville. Here she met and fell in love with John Hamilton, a young man from Iron County. They were married and immediately after went to Cedar City.

In 1855 John was called to go to Las Vegas, Nevada for a year to work in the lead mines. The mines failed and he returned in six weeks.

In 1856 John and Mary moved to Shirts Creek, building a fort 96 feet square with walls three feet thick, there, and that same fall John was called to Salt Lake to take handcart brothers and sisters to Cedar City. In the fall of 1858 they returned to Springville and in 1859 moved to Provo Valley, where Mary was the second woman to enter the valley. In 1859 John was appointed sheriff of Provo Valley by Brigham Young, an office he held five years. He took up land and built the first rock house in Heber.

In 1864 the Black Hawk War broke out and John served in it as a major and was out on several expeditions. They had to go armed wherever they went.

In the spring of 1868, the grasshoppers devoured their crops so John took a four mule team and made a trip to Laramie, Wyo., for freight. When he returned in the fall he worked for the U.P. Railroad in Echo Canyon a month and then with his family, went to visit his parents at Hamilton's Fort. They urged him to move back, which they did.

In 1869 they adopted an Indian girl, Anna Mennorow, who was born October 10, 1867, they obtained her in exchange for a horse.

In 1870 John had a contract to haul the U.S. mail from Cedar City to St. George twice a week, later three times a week until 1874. He built a large brick house and devoted his time to farming and teaming.

In 1891 they returned to Heber where John bought a farm at Buysville where they resided until Mary died December 3, 1899. In 1892, John was ordained a High Priest by Apostle Francis M. Lyman. Same year

DANIEL BIOGRAPHIES

was made first counselor to William McGee, presiding elder. Later he was set apart as ward clerk by F. M. Lyman.

John visited a son at Hamilton Fort and Idaho, returning to Heber in 1901. He visited around with his children in Utah, Idaho and Montana and then came to spend his last days with his daughter Mrs. George (Sarah) McDonald at Heber.

Funeral services for John were held in the Second Ward. The Indian War veterans attended the services in a body, carrying the flag. Counselor Crook took charge of the service. The Second Ward choir rendered musical selections. J. C. McDonald gave the opening prayer. R. S. Duke, J. R. Murdock, E. D. Clyde and Bishop Joseph Rasband eulogized their dead friend. Closing prayer was by Henry L. McMullin.

At Daniel, John had a small store at his residence which stood on an acre on the T. H. Jones farm, just over the fence east of the John P. Anderson farm. His first place was on what is the Oaks farm. He also brought molasses from the Utah's Dixie to sell.

Mary and John were the parents of twelve children:

John Creighton, James McDonald, Abel Samuel, Mary Lovina Jane, Margaret Francis, Emma Elizabeth, Rachel Jamerson, Joseph Layson, Anna Mennorow, Indian girl.

April 13, 1917

This week marks the passing of another of the old pioneers and an Indian War veteran of long-standing, John Hamilton.